

KINDERGARTEN ROUND-UP

On Wednesday, May 11th, parents are invited to bring to Timothy L. Johnson Academy, their child who will be five-years of age by August 1, 2022. The meeting will be held in the Timothy L. Johnson Academy Media Center from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.

Bring your child to meet the teachers and get your kindergarten student enrolled. Please bring with you, your child's birth certificate and his/her immunization record.

Please stay and enjoy pizza after the parent meeting.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS OR PHONE?

If you have moved, or are planning to move, please let the school office know your new address as soon as possible. This is especially important as the transportation manager is beginning to schedule bus routes for the 22-23 school year.

Please call the school office at (260)441-8727 with your information.

FIELD DAY PLANNED

Wednesday, May 25th has been designated as Field Day. Mr. Nichols, TLJA's Physical Education Instructor, is in charge of this year's Field Day.

Lower class grades will take part in their field day activities in the morning with the upper class grades taking part in the afternoon. Come watch your student participate in a fun end-of-the-school year activity.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

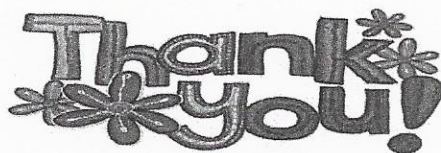
- May 9, 10, 11** Kindergarten Classes Field Trips to Eagle Marsh
- May 11** TLJA's Kindergarten Round-Up 4:00-6:00 pm
- May 18, 19** Kindergarten classes to Safety Village
- May 20** First Grade Field Trip to Fort Wayne Children's Zoo
- May 23** Middle School All-School Cedar Point trip
- May 25** Elementary All School Field Day
Lower classes AM
Upper classes PM

LAST DAY OF SCHOOL

AUGUST

August 11

First Day of new 2022-2023



A big "Thank You" to all of our parents and students who have supported our staff this year as we strived to successfully educate students this past year. We appreciate your cooperation and look forward to seeing everyone for the new school year, 2022-2023.

YEARBOOKS STILL AVAILABLE

There are still 2021-2022 yearbooks available and on sale Monday through Friday during school hours.

Yearbooks are \$15.00 each. See Mr. Badgett in the Middle School area if you wish to purchase a 2021-2022 yearbook. Don't miss out on a chance to have a picture of your student's 2021-2022 year at Timothy L. Johnson Academy.

FREE 5-WEEK SUMMER PROGRAM

From 8:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. on June 13th through July 15th. A Summer Advantage USA summer program will be held at Timothy L. Johnson Academy.

This is a free summer learning program that will help scholars advance their learning while having a great time. There will be fun activities, field trips, guest speakers, sports, art programs, and much, much more.

To sign up your elementary student for this fun summer program, contact Mrs. Traylor at 441-8727. To enroll your middle school student, contact Mrs. Linnemeier at 543-4077.

INTENT TO RETURN AND END OF YEAR SURVEY

If you haven't already done so, please turn in your Intent to Return Form to your child's teacher. This will assure you that your student will have a place reserved for him/her for the next school year.

Also, please send in the End of Year Survey recently sent home with your student. This information will give us feedback as we plan for the next school year.

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, (AD-3027) found online at: How to File a Complaint, and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

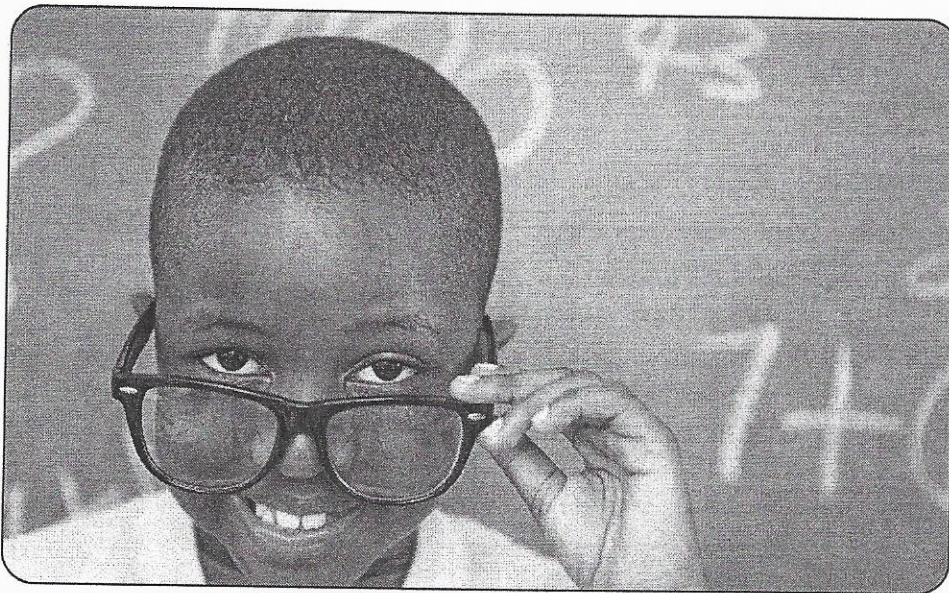
- 1. mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;*
- 2. fax: (202) 690-7442; or*
- 3. email: program.intake@usda.gov.*

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Elementary School Parents[®]

Timothy L. Johnson Academy

make the difference!



Reflect on the school year and celebrate your child's success

As the school year winds down, it's a great time to help your child look back, look forward, give thanks and celebrate. Here's how:

- **Talk to your child's teacher.** Ask about your child's strengths and weaknesses. How has he improved? Where does he need more work? Ask what you can do to help your child over the summer.
- **Talk to your child** about the school year. Ask what he thinks went well. Talk about what challenged him most. Help him figure out what changes he should make for the upcoming school year.
- **Review your child's successes.** Look over schoolwork you've saved during the year. Point out how much your child has learned—how many

new words, for example. Or how he can add and divide. Or how his writing has improved.

- **Help your child set learning goals** for the summer. How much time will he spend reading? What math concepts would he like to master? Guide him, based on the suggestions from his teacher.
- **Encourage your child to thank** people who have made the year work—the teacher, school nurse, librarian, food service worker, etc. This will help him appreciate how many people have helped him.
- **Celebrate** the year's accomplishments with a special activity. It doesn't have to be elaborate or cost anything. Just make plans to enjoy one-on-one time with your child.

Remember the 85-15 rule for discipline



Too often, discipline gets a bad rap. Many parents think it means punishing their children when

they misbehave—which isn't enjoyable for kids or parents.

However, the word *discipline* actually comes from the Latin word *disciplina*, which means "teaching." So try thinking about discipline as a way to teach your child skills to be successful in life.

Most of your discipline—roughly 85 percent—should focus on encouraging the behavior you *want* to see from your child. You can do this by being a good role model. If you want your child to be kind, be kind to others. If you want your child to be responsible, fulfill your commitments.

You can also point out other people who display the behaviors you'd like to encourage. And when you see your child doing the right thing, offer praise.

That leaves just 15 percent of the time for correcting negative behavior. Set rules and enforce consequences consistently. Then express your confidence that your child will make better behavior choices next time.

Attendance is *still* important towards the end of the year!



Summer vacation is on the horizon—but it's not here yet. Here are three reasons to make sure your child attends classes

on time every day:

- 1. Learning hasn't stopped.** Teachers are still planning lessons and teaching new content. Attending every school day (unless ill or in quarantine) helps ensure that students meet learning goals. Studies show that students who miss just 10% of the school year in the early grades are still behind their peers when they reach high school.
- 2. Teachers often plan group projects for the end of the year.** These projects help students learn collaboration, problem

solving and responsibility. These are skills children will need throughout their school careers and in the workplace.

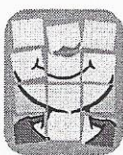
- 3. Regular attendance teaches kids to be accountable**—an important quality for adulthood.

Source: E. García and E. Weiss, "Student absenteeism: Who misses school and how missing school matters for performance," Economic Policy Institute.

"When students improve their attendance rates, they improve their academic prospects and chances for graduating."

—Attendance Works

Plan a few educational and fun field trips for your family



"I'm bored!" Do you dread hearing this phrase over the summer? Then start planning now! In addition to collecting

supplies, such as books, recipes and games, schedule a few family field trips. Local educational destinations are often free and fun to visit!

Consider going to:

- **Museums.** Call or go online to check upcoming exhibits. Which would your child like to see most? Are there any virtual events you could attend? Add them to your summer calendar.
- **An arboretum.** Kids love walking through gardens, admiring flowers and learning about nature. Bring a camera or sketchbook so your child can record the plants and animals.
- **The zoo.** This trip is almost always a hit with children. Before leaving, you and your child can read about the animals you'll see. Talk about their natural habitats and what they like to eat.
- **A fire station.** Call ahead to see if a summer open house is planned. If not, call and see if you could schedule a visit.
- **An airport.** Simply parking near the airport is interesting. Can your child spot the control tower? What about the planes taking off and landing?
- **Parks.** Find a guide to local parks and keep it handy. Consider visiting hiking trails, historic battlefields and more. Add a nature guide and maybe even some binoculars, and you're ready for an adventure!

Are you teaching your child to use time wisely?



Time management is an important skill for school success—especially as students work to finish end-of-the-year projects

and assignments. Are you helping your child make the most of study time?

Answer *yes* or *no* to each of the questions below:

- 1. Have you reviewed your child's assignment and study schedule and made adjustments as necessary?**
- 2. Do you have your child record dates for tests, projects and family commitments on the family calendar?**
- 3. Do you try to keep a balance between your child's schoolwork and the rest of your lives?** Elementary schoolers need plenty of time for exercise, family time and sleeping.
- 4. Do you help your child break down big assignments into smaller tasks to complete step-by-step?**
- 5. Do you make sure that your child has some time each day for pleasure reading?**

How well are you doing?

Each *yes* means you are helping your child learn to use time wisely. For *no* answers, try those ideas in the quiz.

Elementary School
Parents
make the difference!

Practical Ideas for Parents to Help Their Children. ISSN: 1046-0446

For subscription information call or write:
The Parent Institute, 1-800-756-5525,
P.O. Box 7474, Fairfax Station, VA 22039-7474.
Fax: 1-800-216-3667.

Or visit: www.parent-institute.com.

Published monthly September through May.
Copyright © 2022, The Parent Institute,
a division of PaperClip Media, Inc., an
independent, private agency. Equal
opportunity employer.

Publisher: Doris McLaughlin.
Publisher Emeritus: John H. Wherry, Ed.D.
Editor: Rebecca Hasty Miyares.

Summer volunteer work can build character and leadership



The world's problems can seem overwhelming. It's vital for kids to learn that every person can make a difference, and

that when people work together, the results are amazing!

Summer volunteering is a great way to teach this lesson to your child—all while building confidence, compassion and leadership skills.

To get started, talk with your child about:

- **Interests.** How do your child's interests relate to community needs? An animal lover could look for ways to help an animal rescue group. A young entrepreneur could help with a fundraiser.
 - **Skills.** Your child's abilities and strengths can be gifts to others. Your child might hold a bake sale or read to younger children.
- Sometimes it's fun to learn new skills, too, such as how to help with landscaping or home repairs.
- **Needs.** Perhaps your child has noticed a park that needs some sprucing up. Or maybe local families need clothing or food. Go online with your child and search for upcoming in-person and virtual community service events in your area. You could even ask your child's teacher if the school needs help over the summer.
 - **Schedules.** Volunteering takes time, and families are busy! Set realistic goals that leave room for other priorities. Depending on your family's commitments, you and your child might volunteer just a few hours here and there—or decide to take on one large, exciting project!

Keep your child safe while navigating the online world



Technology has changed how students learn and how they socialize. Millions of kids in all age groups are online every

day—at home, at school, at friends' homes, at the library—and many are creating online content.

To promote online safety:

- **Discuss rules and expectations.** Use software that helps protect children, but supervise carefully, too. Allow your child to communicate online only with people you both know.
 - **Set guidelines.** Establish times when technology is not allowed, and set a time when all devices must be turned off for the evening.
 - **Remind your child** not to reveal personal information online, such as phone numbers, school name, passwords or your home's location.
 - **Keep internet use out in the open.** Have your child use computers and digital devices in common areas where you can supervise.
 - **Learn about the websites and apps** your child wants to visit or download. Make sure you approve of the content.
 - **Encourage your child** to tell you about any inappropriate content, messages or experiences online. Report concerns to the authorities.
- For more safety tips, visit the Family Online Safety Institute at www.fosi.org/good-digital-parenting.

Q: My daughter hates to write. When she has a writing assignment, she just stares at the blank piece of paper. Is there anything I can do to help?

Questions & Answers

A: Elementary schoolers are often reluctant writers. Many simply freeze with fear at the thought of writing. They worry that what they write won't be any good, or that they'll be made fun of.

To help your child overcome writer's block:

- **Remind her** that professional writers have difficulty writing sometimes, too.
- **Talk through ideas** with her. Encourage your child to brainstorm and make a list of as many ideas as she can.
- **Suggest she write down** her ideas just as they come. Later she can edit for flow, grammar and spelling.
- **Encourage her** to use a computer to write if possible. This makes it easier to make revisions.
- **Have her try free writing.** She should write anything that comes to mind, no matter how silly. Or, ask your child to write about something she enjoys.
- **Don't over-criticize.** If your child asks you to review her writing, note what you like first. Focus on what your student is trying to say, not just the mechanics of writing.
- **Don't fix her mistakes** for her. This won't boost her self-confidence. Instead, it will send the message that you don't think your child is capable of fixing them herself.
- **Be patient.** Allow your child to express her frustration. It takes time to become a good writer.

It Matters: Summer Learning

Focus on healthy habits over the summer months



Habits can have a lasting impact on your child's health and performance in school. That's why it's important to emphasize healthy habits all year long—not just during the school year.

As a family, make an effort to:

- **Be active.** Most children should exercise for at least one hour a day. Instead, many watch TV and play digital games for hours on end. Make a list of fun physical activities you can do together, such as taking a walk, gardening, visiting a local park and kicking a ball around. Ask your child, "Which would you like to do?"
- **Eat well.** Involve your child in making healthy meals. You might borrow a cookbook from the library or search for recipes online. Try some new dishes with fruits, vegetables, whole grains and lean proteins. Avoid potentially harmful or unnecessary ingredients, including excess sugar.
- **Stay hydrated.** This is especially important during activities in hot climates. Remember that drinks don't need to be sweetened or flavored. Water is refreshing—and free! If you serve juice, consider diluting it with water. The earlier you start doing this, the less your child will notice.

It's also important to take your child for regular medical checkups. Talk to the pediatrician about vaccines, summer safety, vision, hearing, allergies and other critical topics. Also, remember to keep your child's medical records up to date.

Engage your child in outdoor science learning this summer

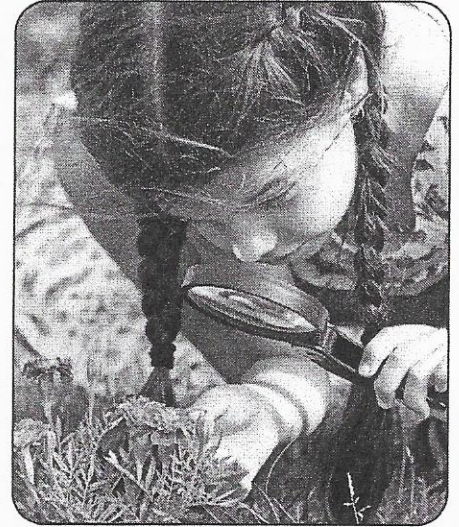
Research shows that girls start to lose interest in science as early as grade school. But a new study shows that learning science outdoors can boost girls' knowledge and their interest in the subject.

In one program, female students explored science in the natural world and recorded their findings in a journal. These students earned higher grades in science and understood more about the science they learned.

To encourage this kind of hands-on science learning whatever your child's gender, head outside and:

- **Have a scavenger hunt** for specific items that can be found nature.
- **Observe** insects and frogs.
- **Look for evidence** of animals, such as tracks.
- **Record how plants change** over the summer.

If you or your child see something puzzling, visit your library or go



online to find the answer. By encouraging your child to ask questions now, you can encourage enthusiasm for science in the future.

Source: K.T. Stevenson and others, "How outdoor science education can help girls stay engaged with science," *International Journal of Science Education*, Taylor and Francis Ltd.

Which is better: reading online or reading physical books?



Many kids enjoy reading online. However, studies show that there are some reading benefits that can come only from reading a printed book.

Fast-paced, digital media trains the brain to process information more rapidly and less thoroughly. Online readers are more likely to skim than to read for meaning. They will read quickly, but not pay close attention. So when they are finished, they will be able to answer concrete questions but

they stumble on questions that involve deeper thinking.

When students read from paper books, the printed page doesn't change. Readers can take their time and turn back to refer to something they've just read. They are more likely to remember the story in chronological order and can recall more details.

So give your child plenty of opportunities to unplug and read some paper books this summer!

Source: K. Benson. "Reading on Paper Versus Screens: What's the Difference?" BrainFacts.org.

Helping Children Learn[®]

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Tips Families Can Use to Help Children Do Better in School



May 2022

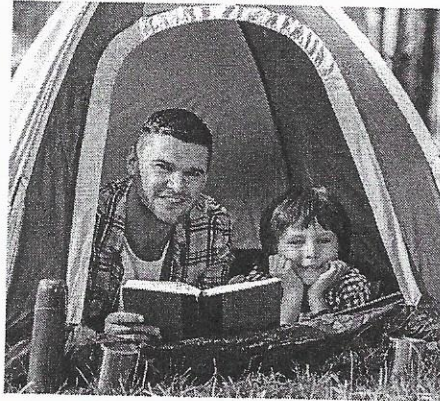
Try a summer approach to ensure that your child keeps reading

School takes a break for the summer, but learning shouldn't! Reading daily over the summer is an important way for students to maintain the gains they make during the school year.

Summer reading shouldn't feel like homework. Let your child choose books he likes. Then promote reading enjoyment by helping him connect reading to simple summer pleasures.

To keep your elementary schooler reading all summer long:

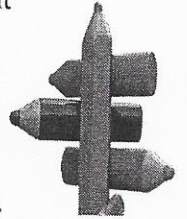
- **Match books** to your child's summer activities. Look for sports books for a summer league player, for example, or camping books for a camper.
- **Encourage your child** to reread a favorite book. Then look for another by the same author, or one on the same topic.
- **Relax bedtime.** Occasionally, let your child stay up later when a book is too good to put down.
- **Start your child** on a series of mystery or thriller books. These page-turners draw kids into the reading habit.
- **Join a library challenge.** Many libraries have summer programs that award prizes to kids for reading.
- **Take books to new places.** Read in a hammock or tent, at the beach or pool, or under a shady tree in the park.



Point in a positive direction

Guidance and encouragement from parents supports and inspires students. Your child benefits when you:

- **Act as a resource.** Suggest places where your child can find information.
- **Talk about** what your child is learning, and emphasize that learning involves effort and persistence.
- **Offer encouragement** in every class, but don't expect your child to perform the same in every subject.



Promote timeliness with actions, not words

Schedules and punctuality matter, in school and in life. If your child is stuck in slow motion when you need to move fast, avoid the urge to shout "Hurry up!" This can provoke anxiety, and probably won't make your child move faster. Instead, look for concrete actions that will move things along. Put your child's hairbrush in her hand. Help her put on her backpack. And be sure to set an example of the value of getting ready early.

Enjoy learning days in May

Help your child explore natural wonders—in outer space and your own yard—this month:

- **May 6—National Space Day.** View amazing images of space taken by the Hubble Telescope at www.nasa.gov/hubble.
- **May 20—National Endangered Species Day.** Find out about animals that need our help. A list of species and more information is available from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service at tinyurl.com/8y88f2ru.
- **May 24—National Scavenger Hunt Day.** Make a list of items from nature (a narrow leaf, a white pebble, etc.). Go outside and see how many your child can find.



Encourage journaling with a theme

Keeping a journal is a low-pressure way for students to practice writing—no one else has to see what they write. To make journaling part of your child's summer routine, suggest a few interesting themes to get started.

Your student could keep:

- **A research log.** Have your child pick a topic of interest—such as skateboarding—to research and write entries about. When were the first skateboards created? Who are some notable skateboarders? What tricks are they known for? How do they do them? How many skateboard parks are in the United States?
- **An observation log.** Your child could observe something over a period of time—such as a vegetable plant as it grows—and describe the changes.
- **A travel log.** Each trip away from home—whether far away or down the block—can be a journal entry. What did your traveler see or do? Who was there? What did it make your child think of?



Q&A How can I help my chatty child learn to listen?

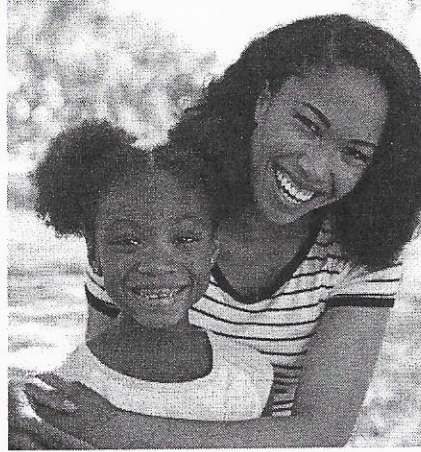
Q: Lately, the teacher says my first grader talks all the time—even when she is supposed to be listening or working. She's doing well in school otherwise. What should I do?

A: Humans are social creatures, and young children's social outlets have been limited in recent years. It's perfectly natural for your child to want to chat. But in school, it's an instinct she's going to have to learn to control.

The best way to help is to teach your child that there are times and places when people can do some things, and other times and places when those same things are not appropriate. Explain that you're going to play a game called My Time, Your Time. When it's My Time, you get to talk. Your child has to look at you and listen to what you're saying. When it's Your Time, your daughter gets to do the talking and you must listen.

Start by setting the timer for a very short amount of My Time—say 30 seconds. Give lots of praise for success. Then switch roles. Gradually, stretch out the times. Tell your child's teacher what you're doing at home. The teacher could say, "Olivia, it's my time now," when it's time to listen in class.

If you make My Time, Your Time a family tradition, when your child is a teen it will also be a great way to stay connected.



Finish the school year strong

Some students slide into vacation mode weeks before the school year is over. They stop doing their best and start avoiding things that seem challenging. To keep your child focused on learning until the last day:

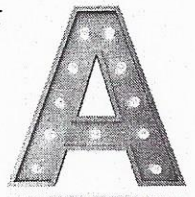
- **Review past worksheets,** quizzes and tests. Use them to talk about how much your child has learned this year.
- **Connect learning** to your child's interests. If he is choosing a report topic, for example, help him consider what he'd like to learn more about.
- **Set early deadlines.** If a long-term project is due on Wednesday, your child should plan to finish it by Monday. Then he'll have a cushion if a problem arises.

Hunt for lines of symmetry

When things that are *symmetrical* are divided in half, they are the same on both sides. The dividing line is called the *line of symmetry*.

To help your child discover symmetry, look at letters.

Remember that lines of symmetry can be vertical (as in the letter A) or horizontal (as in the letter B). They can even be diagonal.



Sometimes, a figure may have more than one line of symmetry. Write letters on paper and fold them where your child thinks the line of symmetry will be. Do the two sides match?

Parent Quiz

Are you supporting test-readiness?

Preparation is important for the best results on tests, and there are many ways families can help students prepare to do their best. Are you helping your child get ready for test success? Answer *yes* or *no* to the questions below:

___ **1. Do you write** test dates on a family calendar and help your child schedule time to prepare?

___ **2. Do you have** your child spread study sessions out over several days?

___ **3. Do you enforce** a regular bedtime that allows your child to be well-rested every school day, not just on test days?

___ **4. Do you make** sure your child eats a healthy breakfast and dresses comfortably on test days?

___ **5. Do you proclaim** your confidence in your child's ability to do well?

How well are you doing?

More yes answers mean you are supporting your child's best effort on tests. For each no, try that idea.

" Learning is not attained by chance, it must be sought for with ardour and attended to with diligence."
—Abigail Adams

Recap the year together

The end of the school year is near. Schedule time with your child to discuss the highlights and look ahead to next year. Ask your child:

- *What was your favorite project this year?*
- *What goals did you accomplish?*
- *What would you like to learn over the summer break?*
- *What excites you about next year? Is there a subject you'd like to improve in?*

Helping Children Learn®

Published in English and Spanish, September through May.

Publisher: Doris McLaughlin.

Publisher Emeritus: John H. Wherry, Ed.D.

Editor: Alison McLean.

Production Manager: Sara Amon.

Translations Editor: Victoria Gaviola.

Copyright © 2021, The Parent Institute®,

a division of PaperClip Media, Inc.

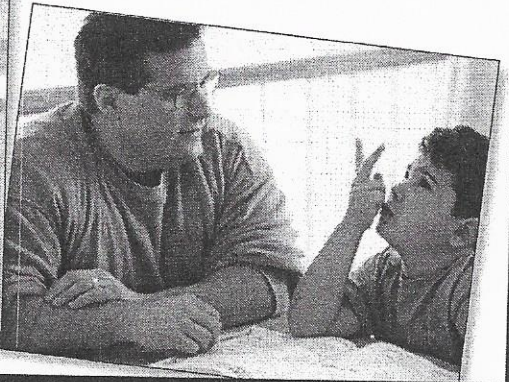
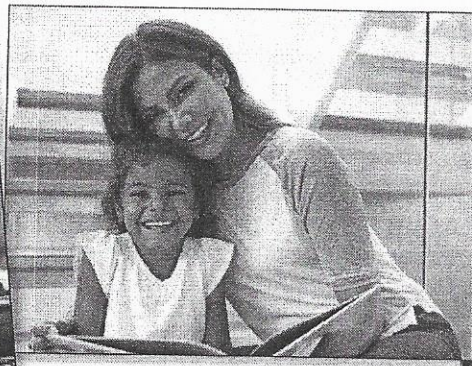
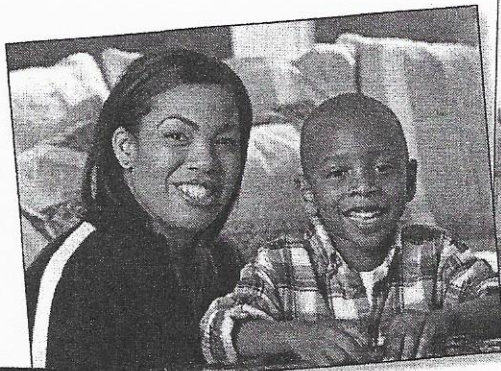
P.O. Box 7474, Fairfax Station, VA 22039-7474

1-800-756-5525 • www.parent-institute.com • ISSN 1526-9264

Daily Learning Planner

*Ideas families can use to help children
do well in school*

Timothy L. Johnson Academy



THE
PARENT
INSTITUTE®

June • July • August 2022

June 2022

Daily Learning Planner: Ideas Families Can Use to Help Children Do Well in School—Try a New Idea Every Day!

- 1. Have family members set some summer goals. List books you want to read and things you want to do.
- 2. Look at a photo in a news article with your child. Talk about it. Then read the article together.
- 3. Practice math skills with real-life problems. If a toy costs \$9.99, how much change will your child get back from a \$20 bill?
- 4. Most libraries have summer reading programs for kids—in person and online. Sign your child up today.
- 5. Encourage your child to start a "Something I Learned Today" journal and write it in all summer.
- 6. When your child has a problem, offer two possible solutions. Let your child decide which one to choose.
- 7. Have your child help you put a first-aid kit together (or restock the one you have). Review basic first aid.
- 8. Make a list of 10 things your child learned in school this year. Post it on the refrigerator.
- 9. Have your child find items outside that are *smooth, shiny, flexible* or *round*.
- 10. Ask, "If you were an animal, which animal would you be and why?"
- 11. Which way is the wind blowing? Help your child hang a strand of yarn from a tree to find out.
- 12. Teach financial responsibility. Help your child learn about budgeting and saving as well as spending.
- 13. Make a graph together of the types of pets in your neighborhood.
- 14. Fill glasses with different amounts of water. Have your child tap them and listen to the different tones.
- 15. Help your child plan three healthy breakfasts.
- 16. Have your child put an ice cube outside in the sun. What happens after five minutes? After 10?
- 17. Prepare a fruit salad for dessert. When shopping for ingredients, choose one fruit your child has never tasted.
- 18. Make an "I'm Bored" box with your child. Fill it with craft activities and things to read.
- 19. Have your child use a measuring tape to measure objects in your home.
- 20. Talk about a familiar place with your child. Is it *north, south, east* or *west* of your home?
- 21. Have your child make a poster with some summer safety tips.
- 22. Ask your child to give you examples of a complete sentence, an incomplete sentence and a run-on sentence.
- 23. Let your child dissolve salt in a glass of water. Watch for a few days. What happens?
- 24. Eat outside tonight! Have your child choose at least one menu item.
- 25. Take an imaginary space trip with your child. What would your spaceship look like? Which planets would you visit?
- 26. Play a screen-free game with your child today.
- 27. See how many places in your home (not including books) your child can find words to read.
- 28. Look in a newspaper for interesting words. Help your child look up their meanings in the dictionary or online.
- 29. Cover a leaf (vein side up) with paper. Have your child rub with a crayon.
- 30. Review a few math facts with your child each day, all summer long.

July 2022

Daily Learning Planner: Ideas Families Can Use to Help Children Do Well in School—Try a New Idea Every Day!

- 1. Ask your child to fill a tall, thin cup with water. Then pour the water into a short, broad cup. Does the amount look different?
- 2. Make unusual prints with your child by dipping flowers into paint and then pressing them onto paper.
- 3. Make up a short question. Ask your child to answer in rhyme.
- 4. Talk about the word *independence* with your child today. What does it mean?
- 5. Read under the stars. Take a blanket and book outside and read with your child by flashlight.
- 6. Have a “pattern” day. Ask your child to notice patterns all around, from street addresses to striped fabrics.
- 7. Make a list of words for your child to find and circle in the newspaper.
- 8. Ask your child *how* and *why* questions to provide reasoning practice.
- 9. Tonight, allow a few minutes after the light is off for quiet conversation with your child.
- 10. Have your child write a letter or draw a picture for a living author of a book. Send it to the author in care of the book’s publisher.
- 11. Walk as fast as you can around your block with your child. Time yourselves. Try to improve your time next week.
- 12. Pick a new word out of the dictionary. Everyone try to use that word at least three times today!
- 13. Start a sentence-a-day story. In a special notebook, take turns with your child writing a story one sentence at a time.
- 14. Ask if your child has ever had a dream that was really scary. What was it about?
- 15. Ask your child to tell you about a favorite family tradition.
- 16. On a sunny day, stand on the driveway or sidewalk with your child. Trace each other’s shadows with chalk.
- 17. Teach your child how to disagree respectfully.
- 18. Learn how to say “I love you” in at least three other languages. Share this with your child.
- 19. Have your child tie a string between two chairs. Use a balloon and play indoor volleyball together.
- 20. Ask about the nicest thing a friend has ever done for your child.
- 21. As a family, do something nice together for your neighborhood, such as picking up litter.
- 22. Encourage your child to draw a self-portrait.
- 23. Help your child find a hobby. Check the library or online for ideas.
- 24. Set aside time today to work on your child’s new hobby together.
- 25. Play alphabet games with your child. List countries, animals or cars in alphabetical order.
- 26. Is your child turning into a summer couch potato? Limit screen time and encourage outdoor play.
- 27. Give your child a magnet. Together, test to see which things in your house contain iron.
- 28. In a paper cup, plant the seeds from a fruit your child has eaten. Water them and see if they grow.
- 29. Sing a familiar song and leave out some words. Does your child know which words you left out?
- 30. Remember, kids need downtime to think, imagine and play.
- 31. Tell a story about when you were your child’s age.

Copyright © 2022 The Parent Institute®, a division of PaperClip Media, Inc. • May be reproduced only as licensed by *Parents make the difference!*® and *Helping Children Learn*® newsletters • 1-800-756-5525

August 2022

Daily Learning Planner: Ideas Families Can Use to Help Children Do Well in School—Try a New Idea Every Day!

- 1. Ask your child to help you plan a family activity.
- 2. Give your child a leafy stalk of celery to put into colored water. Watch the color rise into the stalk over the next week.
- 3. Have your child draw on white paper with a white candle. The picture will appear when your child paints over it.
- 4. Watch or read the weather forecast with your child today. Locate the hottest and the coolest locations on a map.
- 5. Play a card game that uses math with your child.
- 6. Enjoy some outdoor physical activity as a family today.
- 7. Check out the school’s website. Is there information posted for your child’s grade level?
- 8. If your child will take the bus to school, make sure you both know where and when it will stop.
- 9. Have a Backward Day. Walk backward, count backward, etc.
- 10. Make a sound, such as jingling keys. Ask your child to guess what you are doing without looking.
- 11. Help your child use ads for school supplies to figure out where to get the best buys.
- 12. Mute the sound on a TV show. With your child, make up the dialogue.
- 13. Have a Digital Device-Free Day. Enjoy screen-free activities together.
- 14. Create an art gallery. Frame your child’s artwork (a homemade paper frame is fine). Rotate the work on display frequently.
- 15. Do you have errands to do? Have your child help you write a to-do list.
- 16. Make your child laugh! Tell a joke, read a funny story or poem, sing a silly song or draw a cartoon.
- 17. Start a made-up story. “A man went down the road and met a” Let your child finish the story.
- 18. Have a special breakfast with your child today. Talk about goals for the new school year.
- 19. Help your child reestablish school-year bedtime and wake-up routines.
- 20. Play a game of hide and seek with your child.
- 21. Plant an herb garden in pots on your window sill. Let your child smell and taste the leaves and describe the flavors.
- 22. Have your child use the telephone number keys to make words. For example, 5-6-8-3 = Love.
- 23. Choose a “person of the week.” Read more about this person with your child.
- 24. Talk with your child about the importance of telling an adult when a person is being bullied.
- 25. Ask your child to tell you about a favorite summer memory.
- 26. Set aside time every day for reading aloud. Sometimes, let your child read to you.
- 27. Write a secret message in lemon juice on paper. Have your child hold it over a light bulb to read it.
- 28. Put on music and spend 15 minutes drawing or writing with your child. Let the music be your inspiration.
- 29. Visit a local historic site with your child today.
- 30. For smoother mornings, have your child choose and lay out clothes the night before.
- 31. Before driving, show your child the route on a map. Ask for help navigating.

Copyright © 2022 The Parent Institute®, a division of PaperClip Media, Inc. • May be reproduced only as licensed by *Parents make the difference!*® and *Helping Children Learn*® newsletters • 1-800-756-5525